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Second Committee

Summary record of the 2nd meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Wednesday, 29 September 1999, at 10 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. Olhaye ..... (Djibouti)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.20 a.m.

Election of officers

1. **The Chairman** announced that the Group of Western European and Other States, the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States and the Group of Eastern European States had nominated respectively Mr. Brauzzi (Italy), Mr. Matute (Peru) and Mr. Niculescu (Romania) to the three offices of Vice-Chairman. The Group of Asian States had nominated Mr. Edin A'Ala (Syrian Arab Republic) for the office of Rapporteur.

2. *Mr. Brauzzi (Italy), Mr. Matute (Peru) and Mr. Niculescu (Romania) were elected Vice-Chairmen and Mr. Edin A'Ala (Syrian Arab Republic) was elected Rapporteur by acclamation.*

Organization of work (A/54/250; A/C.2/54/L.1)

3. **The Chairman** said that the meetings should start on time, namely at 10 a.m and 3 p.m. If a speaker was absent, his or her delegation would automatically be placed last on the list of speakers for that meeting.

4. At the fifty-third session, the Second Committee had utilized only 77 per cent of its allocated conference resources and had lost 38 hours owing to late starting and early adjournment of meetings. He hoped that, at the current session, the Committee would be able to improve on those statistics.

5. Based on previous experience, it was proposed that speakers should be limited to 15 minutes for the general debate and 7 minutes for statements under individual agenda items. That would also apply to statements made by agencies, funds and programmes, while introductions by members of the Secretariat would be limited to 10 minutes. Their statements should focus on highlights and priorities and should, if possible, be distributed in advance.

6. The Committee's agenda was based on clusters as laid down in General Assembly resolution 50/227 and on the time-frame in resolution 48/162. The programme of work took into account the availability of reports and, to the extent possible, the presence of the high-level representatives of the Secretariat, agencies, funds and programmes.

7. The Bureau would look into proposals concerning themes and focus for discussion under the clusters of items in accordance with resolution 50/227. The members of the Committee were invited to convey their suggestions to the Bureau. The selection of a theme would not preclude the possibility for delegations of raising other specific issues under the cluster.

8. As indicated in resolution 50/227, the Bureau would meet with the Bureau of the Third Committee to review the respective programmes of work, identify potential areas of overlap and make recommendations to the Committee.

9. As requested in resolution 50/227, draft resolutions would be shorter. For issues of a procedural nature, decisions would be used instead of resolutions. The Bureau would look into the possibility of dealing with related items in omnibus or combined resolutions. Also, in accordance with resolution 50/227, the Committee would at the end of the session review its draft programme for the coming year with a view to rationalizing and simplifying reporting procedures. The deadlines for the submission of draft resolutions would be strictly adhered to.

10. He intended to organize briefings by senior officials, panel discussions on agenda items and keynote addresses. He would also welcome any suggestions from members of the Committee.

11. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the arrangements just described were acceptable to the Committee.

12. *It was so decided.*

13. **The Chairman** drew attention to document A/C.2/54/L.1 and to the actions taken by the General Assembly based on the recommendations contained in the first report of the General Committee (A/54/250) relating to the organization of the work of the General Assembly and its Main Committees.

14. **Ms. Jacoby** (Sweden), speaking on behalf of the six States which had taken the initiative for the convening of the World Summit for Children in 1990 (Canada, Egypt, Mali, Mexico, Pakistan and Sweden), raised the question of the follow-up to the Summit. The General Assembly would consider the arrangements envisaged for its special session in 2001. That issue would be considered by the Committee under the item "Operational activities for development". The six States considered, however, that the follow-up to the Summit should not be confined to the restrictive framework of United Nations operational activities or to the economic issues before the Second Committee. The question also concerned the Third Committee and should accordingly be dealt with by the plenary Assembly, leading to results that would benefit children, during the special session in 2001. She therefore requested the Chairman to write to the President of the General Assembly in order to draw the attention of the General Committee to that question so that

item 101 (a) could be considered both by the plenary and by the Second Committee.

15. **The Chairman** replied that he would write to the President of the General Assembly urging the General Committee to accept that change.

16. *Since he heard no objections, it was so decided.*

17. The draft programme of work in document A/C.2/54/L.1, as orally amended, was adopted.

The meeting rose at 10.45 a.m.